

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
January 21, 2020
Special Meeting**

Members present: Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, and Frank Sears

Others present: Amy Martone, MRUUSD School Board Member, Jo Reynolds, Grant Reynolds, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Heather McMahon, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Doug Fontein, Hollis Squier (briefly at 8:20), and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant.

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Amy Martone ~ Amy wanted to clarify her role as Tinmouth’s sole representative to the Mill River Union Unified School District. Issues have arisen regarding removal of the slide, cleaning the Community Center, and the need to develop a clear communication chain for who addresses those concerns.

School Slide ~ The Select Board had been asked for permission to remove the slide. Discussion ensued about whether this is an issue for the Select Board or the Community Center Board (or both).

The school district’s insurance company had the playground inspected which identified a number of issues, one of which is the slide on the south side of the school. It presents several risk factors for kids using it and no longer meets compliance standards, so MRUUSD is going to have it removed. As no money was budgeted by MRUUSD to replace it, there are some folks willing to fund raise to do that. It is very much used by students. Cathy advised that the Community Center Board should meet to deal with these issues. The Community Center Board consists of Ann Czar – elected at town meeting; Cathy Reynolds representing the Select Board and Amy Martone representing the School District. Rainbow Squier as Building Manager, Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker, school principal, and Gary Marcy MRUUSD Operations Director also need to be involved.

Agenda ~ Board reviewed, moved discussion about electing or appointing the road commissioner to the top.

Elect or Appoint Road Commissioner ~ Board discussed pros and cons of electing versus appointing the road commissioner, decided to leave as it is for now and noted that more communication is needed.

Communications ~ Eric advised that there is a message now on the town garage answering machine. Folks will be encouraged to call the town garage to report a tree down or road condition concerns.

Proposed FY21 Highway Budget ~ Board reviewed draft #5, reduced some items (gasoline, mileage, and the Equipment Fund for a total of \$1,200) and then decided to reduce the paving budget from \$100,000 to \$75,000. Frank and Michael voted to reduce paving, Cathy voted against. Michael and Frank voted to reduce the overtime budget by \$2,000, Cathy opposed. Final proposed FY21 highway budget of \$514,250 was approved, Frank moved, Michael 2nded, all voted in favor. FY20 highway budget is \$551,950. Cathy moved to add an article to the town

meeting warning to ask voters if they want to add the \$25,000 for paving back into the budget, Frank 2nded, all voted in favor.

Proposed FY21 General Budget ~ Board reviewed draft #5, added \$3,000 more to the legal line item (necessary due to Wallingford town line dispute), added \$500 for pay for the Health Officer (Cathy and Michael approved – Frank as H.O. abstained), and deleted \$600 for the Rutland Regional Marketing Program as they did not send a request. Board voted to approve a proposed FY21 general budget of \$237,815. All voted in favor. FY20 general budget is \$236,240.

Estimated 2020 tax rate ~ Based on the 2019 Grand List, the estimated tax rate for 2020 will be \$0.7003 – 2019 tax rate was \$0.7586.

Town Report Select Board Report ~ Board reviewed and edited Cathy’s draft for the town report. Board approved report, would like it to be posted to Front Porch Forum and printed in *Tales of Tinmouth* as well as the town report. While it was deleted from the report, Cathy noted that it has been “a long and frustrating 3 years” for her.

Personnel Review ~ Board set date of February 18th at 6:00 (weather permitting) to meet with Eric, Ronnie, and Gail; still need to determine expectations and how to proceed.

Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project ~ TPMP (via Gail as President) requested support to apply for a Watershed Planning Grant for assessing the private roads around the Pond. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission is already scheduled to inventory and assess the Town’s roads and are available to also do the work for TPMP. Frank moved, Cathy 2nded, to support the request, all voted in favor.

Transfer Station Inspection ~ Gail advised that the state sent a registered letter regarding violations found during their December inspection. There were tires (from Green-Up), the tarp was not covering the roll-off (helps keep the wind from blowing debris around) and a closure plan had not been filed as required in October. Board instructed Gail to respond.

Members Concerns ~ None

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar
Select Board Assistant